

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0614

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS

SUBJECT: INSPECTION ELVER SHIPMENTS TO JAPAN

REF.: STATE 50093

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, WASHDC

1. PROBLEM DESCRIBED REFTEL APPEARS TO BE NOT UNCOMMON IN EEL TRADE WHICH POST HAS NOW COME TO APPRISE AS "SLIPPERY" BUSINESS. TRADE VERY COMPETITIVE IN JAPAN AND SOME TRADESMEN REPORTED NOT VERY HONEST. THIS ALLEGATION MADE TO POST BY DIFFERENT SOURCES. ON OTHER HAND, SEVERE LOSSES IN SHIPMENT (I.E., LARGE MORTALITY) COMMON OCCURENCE. IN 1973. 100 PERCENT MORTALITY OCCURED IN AT LEAST ONE SHIPMENT.

2. TO CONDUCT ADEQUATE INSPECTION OF SHIPMENT, INSPECTOR WILL HAVE TO MEET SHIPMENT AT AIRPORT AND ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT TO DESTINATION. TRANSPORTATION IS USUALLY BY TRUCK AND INSPECTOR SHOULD ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT TO MAKE SURE IT ARRIVES SAFELY. DEPENDING ON DELIVERY DESTINATION, THIS TRIP MAY TAKE SEVERAL HOURS. AT HOLDING POND SITE, INSPECTOR WILL HAVE TO CAREFULLY OBSERVE WIGHTING OF SHIPMENT, CHECK MORTALITY AND REMAIN AT SITE FROM 3-8 HOURS TO CHECK CONDITION OF ELVERS PLACED IN PONDS TO RECUPERATE FROM LONG JOURNEY. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION DEPENDS ON ELVER CONDITION. IF POOR, LONGER PERIOD OF OBSERVATION REQUIRED SINCE SIGNIFICANT MORTALITY MAY OCCUR LATER. EXPERIENCE NECESSARY FOR INSPECTOR TO MAKE JUDGEMENT
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AS TO LENGTH OF OBSERVATION NECESSARY. IN THIS REGARD, THERE MAY

BE OCCASIONS WHEN INSPECTOR MAY HAVE TO OVERNIGHT IF SHIPMENT
DELIVERED LATE.

3. TO CONDUCT INSPECTION DESCRIBED ABOVE, INSPECTOR NEEDS
TO KNOW NAME OF BUYER, DESTINATION OF SHIPMENT, TERMS OF CONTRACT
(WHETHER SELLING ON BASIS LIVE EELS DELIVERED TO DESTINATION),
WHETHER SHIPMENT INSURED AND TERMS OF INSURANCE.

4. POST APPRECIATES PROBLEM FACED BY COBB BUT CONDUCTING
INSPECTION IS TIME CONSUMING TASK AND OFFICE OF REGFISHATT NOT
EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF SERVICE WHICH ESSENTIALLY
CONSISTUTES "COMMERCIAL SERVICES." FURTHERMORE, NASAKA NOT
QUALIFIED TO CONDUCT INSPECTION AND HIS SERVICES URGENTLY REQUIRED
IN OTHER AREAS.

5. INSPECTION SERVICE AVAILABLE IN JAPAN. COST IS ESTIMATED AT
MINIMUM 20,000 YEN PER DAY(\$70), PLUS TRAVEL AND LODGING EXPENSES.
POST CAN SUGGEST NAME AND COBB CAN CONTACT INSPECTOR DIRECTLY.
COST COMMENSURATE WITH TYPE OF SERVICE RENDERED AND ABOVE FEE
COVERS FULL INSPECTION.

6. IF COBB CAN PROVIDE NAME OF BUYER, POST MAY BE ABLE ASSIST IN
MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES ON BUYER'S PERFORMANCE.
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